*SUBJECTS.*

shalls and Chowkeys. Under the new system of accounts, the merchants had to pay the duty into the Taluk Treasury and produce the receipt at the bankshall before the tobacco bales could be removed. This resulted in loss and inconvenience to the merchants.

*Dewan's reply.*—Certain financial reforms have been introduced in regard to the Tobacco revenue. Regard should be had for these before any change could be made. If, however, there is any special inconvenience to the public, it will be considered and the necessary changes effected.

***142. Allotment for irrigation and drainage works in north and middle Travancore.***

*Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai* (Member, Nayar Samajam, Quilon) requested that a reasonable and sufficient amount of money might be allotted for irrigation and drainage works in north and middle Travancore and that a special Irrigation Engineer might be deputed to inspect the agricultural centres and do the needful. Agriculture was dependent for its success mainly upon the monsoons which were becoming more and more precarious every year. Failure of crops had become constant. Irrigation works included drainage works which were specially needed in north Travancore for the prevention of destructive floods. He quoted figures to show that the amount spent on original works in those parts was very small, averaging only Rs. 592 per annum. The many canals and water-ways were either left incomplete or had silted up and become useless for want of attention. There was much room for improvement and if Government did not bestir themselves much harm might result.

*Dewan's reply.*— Will be attended to.

The same member also brought forward the following representations :—

***143. Malayalam to be made the language of the courts.***

(1) That Malayalam, the language of the country, might be made the language of the Courts of law and judgments and proceedings might as far as possible be written in Malayalam: and

***144. Disposal of Government contracts in parts.***

(2) That, in order to enable the people of the country to take up works on contract, all Government contracts might be auctioned in parts and not disposed of in one lot as monopolies which are advantageous neither to the Government nor to the people.

He illustrated his request by taking the cases of timber and salt. He said that it was a matter of regret that all good timber was given to a foreign contractor who exported the whole to foreign parts and the local public had to be content with what had been rejected by the

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